

Parents As Scholars

State Fiscal Year 2018

Legislative Report

History:

During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 385 created the *Parents As Scholars* Program (PAS). This bill allows select cash recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to attend an approved vocational/educational program beyond the 12-month federal time limit (45 CFR 261.33). This bill supports TANF cash recipients in the full-time pursuit of education, with attendance in High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certificates, associate's degree, or baccalaureate degree with five regions established based on proportionate TANF caseloads. As participants complete their education or lose eligibility for TANF, openings occur. The participants attend a variety of schools in a variety of programs. Some students are studying for their Hi-Set diploma, while others are attending trade schools, tribal colleges or a component of the Montana University System.

SFY 2018 Outcomes:

- **35** individuals benefited from the PAS program in SFY 2018
- **13** individuals are continuing in the program
- **5** individuals completed their education goal through TANF
- **17** individuals did not complete their education goal through TANF
 - **4** closed to income (3 employment; 1 child support)
 - **14** closed to:
 - **3** voluntary case closures
 - **6** sanction/failure to comply
 - **1** no longer eligible for state TANF
 - **3** withdrew from school

Overview SFY 2012-2018:

SFY 2012		SFY 2013		SFY 2014		SFY 2015	
Enrolled	42	Enrolled	35	Enrolled	36	Enrolled	41
Single Parent	40	Single Parent	33	Single Parent	32	Single Parent	37
Two Parent	2	Two Parent	2	Two Parent	4	Two Parent	4
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
Closed due to Employment	3	Closed due to Employment	8	Closed due to Employment	5	Closed due to Employment	10
Graduated	13	Graduated	6	Graduated	6	Graduated	16
Certificates:		Certificates:		Diploma:		Diploma:	
Cosmetology	3	Cosmetology	3	GED	1	HiSET	3
Dental Assistant	1	Associates:		Certificate:		Certificate:	
Associates:		Medical Office Specialist	1	Cosmetology	1	Cosmetology	8
Paralegal	1	Bachelors:		Associates:		Associates:	
Nursing	2	Community Health	1	Dental Hygiene	1	Mental Health DirectCare	1
Business	2	Electrical Engineering	1	Dental Assistant	1	Information Technology	1
Medical Assistant	2			Business	1	Bachelors:	
Mental Health DirectCare	1			Bachelors:		Mechanics	1
Bachelors:				Nursing	1	Nursing	1
Photography	1					Psychology	1
SFY 2016		SFY 2017		SFY 2018			
Enrolled	47	Enrolled	42	Enrolled	35		
Single Parent	41	Single Parent	34	Single Parent	31		
Two Parent	6	Two Parent	8	Two Parent	4		
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2		
Closed due to Employment	25	Closed due to Employment	11	Closed due to Employment	3		
Graduated	14	Graduated	11	Graduated	5		
Diploma:		Diploma:		Certificate:			
HiSET	4	HiSET	3	Cosmetology	1		
Certificate:		Certificates:		Associates:			
Cosmetology	6	Diesel Technology	1	Business Management	1		
Associates:		Cosmetology	1	Bachelors:			
Nursing	1	Bachelors:		Education	3		
Bachelors:		Education	1				
Accounting	1	Nursing	1				
Biology	1	Psychology	1				
Management Info Systems	1	English	1				

Success Stories:

Jennifer is a single parent, mother of two daughters and recently graduated from MSU-Bozeman with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She has already received four job offers from schools in Hawaii and hopes to relocate her family this summer.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making Parents as Scholars possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I was attending MSU, majoring in Early Childhood Education with the hopes of becoming an elementary teacher. The financial assistance you provided allowed me to concentrate on studying and helped me in my path, which led me to become a graduate of MSU with a Bachelor of Science degree. Without a doubt, this scholarship played a key role in helping me to achieve my educational dreams. Because of your generosity, the financial burden placed on me to pursue my education was reduced. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Jennifer Davidson

Andrew is part of a two-parent household with three children ages 12, 10, and 6. Andrew is a May 2018 graduate from UM-Western in Dillon. He and his family will be moving to Nevada for teaching jobs in September 2018.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you the impact that PAS has had on my life. At this point, it is the reason I have achieved success, especially in the relatively short time it has taken. PAS has allowed me to continue in my educational career as a full-time student while also allowing me to be a full-time father. Without this program, I shudder to think of the time I would have had missed with my young children or perhaps the alteration and extension to my educational timeline so as to have the funds available to support my family. Not only did this program help me to obtain my degree, but it also helped me to excel. Because of the time which with PAS granted through not requiring a full-time job, I was able to focus on studies and graduate magna cum laud with a GPA of 3.82. This is a far cry from who I was 19 years ago when I failed to graduate high school and had no confidence that college was even an option.

The support from this program and people that showed confidence and a willingness to help was just as important and helpful as any funds I received. On days that were rough, and times that I might have been down, there was always a smiling face and a positive, encouraging voice, that gave me the boost I needed to pick myself up and go head strong into those challenges. Here I am, 19 years after I was a high school dropout, with an A.S. in educational studies and a B.S. in Secondary Education and general science, with a job already lined up to go and change the world for many of our future generations. My prayer is that I can help students and be the difference in a way as profound as this program was for me. That I can be as inspirational and helpful as you have been to me week in and week out. This success story and sense of accomplishment also comes with a grateful and humble heart, because without this program and the people who help others to take advantage of it, I am not certain I would have this story to tell. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Regards,
Andrew Norton*

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